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Assassination of seven members of the Workers' Party of Turkey

PASCIST FORCES INTENSIFY PROVOCA-IONS TO HALT THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION

ANKARA (ITA) - The political terror has reached its utmost in Turkey with the assassination of seven members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) on September 8-9, 1978. So, since the formation of Ecevit's Government, in the course of 9 months, the total number of the victims of political violence, including the 108 of last month, has reached 556.

As declared by Prime Minister Ecevit himself, the political terror is being provoked by the "obscure" forces with the purpose of halting the process of democratization in Turkey and of instigating the Armed Forces to make a coup

d'état.

Numerous evidences obtained during recent gendarmerie and police operations made it clear that the big majority of political assassinations are being perpetrated by para-military commando troops or execution squads of the neofascist Nationalist Action Party (MHP). But there are also clues that these gangs are instigated, encouraged and protected by some official organizations within the state apparatus and the Armed Forces such as the National Intelligence Organization (MIT) and the Counter-Guerilla Organization.

They do everything possible in order to create an image that armed conflicts happen between the Left and the Right and reach such a level that the intervention of the Armed Forces becomes inevitable. In order to reinforce this image, the guided political violence has taken in recent weeks as target

the political party leaders and militants.

On September 23, 1978, in Istanbul, two unidentified terrorists raided the seat of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) with the intention of shooting down the party's secretary general Dr. Nihat Sargin. Being unable to realize their plot, they escaped from the seat by wounding with bullets two members.

Again in Istanbul, on October 3, 1978, the local president of the Nationalist Action Party (MHP), Recep Hagatli, and his son Mustafa Hagatli were assassinated by unidentified persons.

On October 8-9, 1978, four unidentified gunmen attacked the house of a TIP member in early morning hours, gagged five of the occupants with chloroform scaked rags, tied their hands behind with wire and then shot them. Four of them, Latif Can, Hürcan Gürses, Efraim Ezgin and Osman Muri Uzunlar died at once, the fifth, Serdar Alper survived critically injured. The aggressors took along two other victims, Faruk Ersan and Salih Govenci, when they made their escape. Police found their bodies later, dumped by the side of a highway 40 kilometers west of Ankara. The only survivor of the massacre too died a few days later in hospital.

Hence, the planners of the political terror try to make public opinion convinced that this is a matter of revenge between two political camps of Turkey.

It is significant that during these bloody events, the leader of the MHP, Ex-colonel Alparsian Türkeş demanded the proclamation of martial law and said that all members of his party should have the licence of carrying arms.

Position of the Workers' Party of Turkey

Although some leftist groups have been tools of this sinister plan by replying to the armed terror of the fascist organizations in the same manner, the attitude of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) has always been very clear. As the political organization of the working class, the TIP has always manifested its opposition to the armed terror. On the massacre of her seven commades, party president Mrs. Behice Boran said: "We refuse the armed terror as a method of struggle. Our reply to the fascists is to develop and to implant our organization within the working class and the toiling masses."

The massacre was perpetrated just after the meeting of local representatives of the party which decided to launch a new campaign in order to increase the number of members. President Beran said: "The aim of this assassination is to prevent the development of our party, to intimidate its members and to make disappeared it, if it is possible. So, by eliminating the independent party of the working class and of the teiling masses and by leaving the political arena only to the bourgeois parties, they will create the image of a 'democratic pluralism' which will mask the setting up of the regime of fascist repression".

In fact, the TIP was the representative of the working class in the Turkish Parliament between 1965-71, but was closed down by the Court of Constitution in 1971 under the pressure of the military junta. Pollowing the general amosty, along with other progressive people who had been condemned, the leaders of the TIP, including President Boran, jailed for 15 years each, were released and reestablished their party in 1975.

Although the TIP participated in the latest general elections in 1977 and raised the voice of the working class, the masses voted that time in favor of social-democrat Ecovit's Republican People's Party (CHP) with the hope of putting an end to the rightist "Nationalist Trent" Coalition Government.

This hope came into reality at the beginning of 1978, and Ecevit formed the actual government. As to the TIP, it declared that it would support all steps taken in favour of democratization of political and social life while criticizing anti-worker measures.

US Domination over Turkey is being reinforced

Although the government program involved promises on the abolition of illegal activities of intelligence agencies, Prime Minister Ecevit has recently preferred to ignore the sinister role of the Counter-Guerilla Organization and of the Mational Intelligence Organization in the political terror, even gone so far to deny the existence of an organization called Counter-Guerilla. Instead of admitting their role and of taking effective measures

against their illogal activities, Ecevit satisfies himself with abstract talks such as "obscure forces".

According to recent revelations about the Counter-Guerilla Organization, most of the Counter-Guerilla members employed in provocations and sabotages are called from Cyprus and sent back after the deed is performed. This organization has a "special bureau" in Cyprus under the name of "Bayraktarlık" (Standard-bearership). This is an organization which controls everything in island's Turkish section, which brings to power whoever it wants and likewise drives off from government posts whoever it dislikes. Among the officers of the "Special Bureau", the torturers and provocators of the 12th march military power period too have places.

The main reason of Ecevit's telerance towards the Counter-Guerilla is the fact that there is the USA just behind this organization. The close connection between the Counter-Guerilla and the USA is evident since the American Military Aid Mission and the Special War Department which directs the Counter-Guerilla are in the same building in Ankara. (Sec. BULLETIN, February, July/August and September 1978).

As a matter of fact, Eccvit's party, despite the fact that it came to power with the support of working people, has started to shift to the right and to flirt with US imperialism.

With the purpose of putting an end to the US arms embarge, Ecevit has already given many concessions in political, economic and military fields to the Carter administration, accepted all directives of the International Monetary Fund.

Just after lifting of the US arms embargo, Eccvit's government agreed to the reopening of four military bases the United States used for gathering intelligence information from the Soviet Union until they were closed down in 1975.

1975.
The bases were shut down by Demirel's Government in retaliation for the United States' arms embarge imposed against Turkey in 1974.

The four installations that now are opened are US electronic surveillance facilities at Sinop on the coast of the Black Sea, at Diarbakir in castern Turkey near the Seviet Border, at Belbasi near Ankara and at Kargaburun on the sea of Marmara.

Mr. Ecevit expressed hope that "a new and positive era has started in Turkish-American relations" with the formal ending of the arms embarge on Turkey and that "a revitalization of the Turkish-American relationship would strongthen not only Turkey's defense posture but its economy as well."

Political terror is encouraged with growing US hegenony

Under these circumstances, it will be unrealistic to wait effective measures against the illegal activities of the Counter-Guerilla and the MIT, since their promoter and collaborator, US imperialism, has been once again welcomed to Turkey and US intelligence officers took the control of vital intelligence nets in their hands.

Nevertheless, despite this shift of Ecevit to the side of US imperialism, progressive forces of Turkey have still a say on the future of Turkey. For example, more than 50.000 people representing different mass organizations of Turkey participated in the funeral of the martyrs of Ankara massacre, manifested their solidarity with the Workers' Party of Turkey and expressed their will to keep the unity against the menace of US imperialism and the fascism. Besides, in the declarations of these organizations protesting the massacre, Ecevit's government was asked to take effective measures against the fascist organizations as soon as possible.

On the other hand, two big trade union centers of Turkey, Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) and Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TURK-IŞ), first time since their formations, have manifested their wills to act together against the growing menace of fascism, to push the government for taking effective measures against "obscure" forces.

Furthermore, democratic forces of the world too manifest their solidarity with the TIP and, sending thousands of telegrams and letters to the Prime Minister, ask him to take necessary measures.

Taking into consideration all these, US imperialism does not see itself in an atmosphere of security in Turkey and is afraid of a progress which can replace Eccvit's Government with a more progressive one. Then, US imperialism, using its tools such as the Counter-Guerilla, the National Intelligence Organization, the Nationalist Action Party's para-military troops, tries to provoke the Turkish Armod Forces either to force the Eccvit's Government to proclaim a martial law or to realize a military coup d'état by weakening the position of the government.

Chronological list of political assassinations of one month

- SEP 15: In Corum, student Resul Cankaya who was wounded earlier dies in hospital.
- SEP 16: In Elazig, municipal employee Mustafa Korkmaz is shot dead by an armed group. In Gaziantep, teacher Raci Ulutas is fatally shot by unidentified persons.
- SEP 17: In Ankara, unidentified persons opening fire indiscriminately into a crowd shood dead a weman, Bahriye Oral.
- SEP 18: In Istanbul, an armod group shoot dead a rightist youth, Necati Cakici In Ankara, student Lütfi Adayaman who was found wounded earlier dies in a hospital.
- SEP 19: In Gaziantop, Mrs. Hanife Altınbaş is shot dead by unidentified persons In Istanbul, teacher Mustafa Yaşar is found killed. In Ankara, Lütfi Cansu is shot dead by an armed group. In Elazıg, teacher Hüseyin Bulut is fatally shot by unidentified. In Urfa, football player Vedat Ulusoy is shot dead by unidentified.
- SEP 20: In Ankara, student Himmet Atalay is shot dead during a clash between rival student groups.

 In Siverek, Hasan Tufan is killed by an armed group opening fire at his house.
 - In Istanbul, student Namik Kenal Apak is shot dead during the funeral of the victim of an earlier assassination.
- In Istanbul, student Saadettin Yildiz is shot dead by unidentified. SEP 21: In Izmir, student Hakan Ozkan is badly beaten and then shot dead by armed persons.
 - In Elazig, prison guardian Ahmet Baris is shot dead. In Ankara, Kasin Çelik who was wounded earlier when a municipal bus
 - was attacked dies at a hospital. In Edirno, student Hehmet Taylan is fatally shot by unidentified. In Halatya, Hasan Alkan and Siddik Içik are shot dead during an armed conflict between two rival tribes.
- SEP 22: In Ankara, worker Necip Büyüktaş is shot doad by unidentified.

 In Kars, state employee Şefik Akarsu is stabbed doad by armed people.

 In Malatya, technician Hasan Başyurt is shot doad by an armed group.

 In Istanbul, migrant worker Ümit Togaç who has just come from Germany for high school exams is shot doad by four armed persons.

 In Antalya, an unidentified person's mutilated body is found.
- SEP 23: In Adama, student Mustafa Ertan is shot dead by unidentified. In Halatya, Hacı Yigit, Müslim Koyuncu and Ali Dilimmez are shot dead by "Gray Wolves", para-military commando troops of the MHP.
- dead by "Gray Wolves", para-military commando troops of the MHP. SEP 24: In Elazig, worker Musa Kaya known as a sympathizer of the CHP is shot doad by unidentified persons.
- SEP 25: In Istanbul, Mustafa Kurt is shot dead by "Gray Volves" on way home. In Urfa, teacher Fehmi Kasaroglu is shot dead as a result of a blood feud.
 - In Adama, student Ramazan Güzel is found dead with bullet wounds on his body.
- Again in Adama, student Mahmut Mazlum is shot dead by unidentified. SEP 26: In Istanbul, student Orhan Karaca is found killed.
- Again in Istanbul, dead bedies of two unidentified persons are found with bullet wounds.

 In Malatya, teacher Hasan Ginar and student Sinasi Esandaroglu who were wounded earlier die in a hospital.

In Adama, worker Mustafa Alaşıl is beaten and shot dead by Gray Wolves Again in Adama, technician Emrullah Şekerci is found hanged in garden.

SEP 27: In Malatya, Recep Eroglu is shot dead by unidentified persons. In Istanbul, rightist teacher Hilmi Sakarya is fatally shot.

- SEP 28: In Manisa, policaman Sükrü Gün is killed on duty by armed porsons. In Istanbul, Hüseyin Yan is stabbed dead by unidentified. In Malatya, two students, Kemal Paşahan and Zeynel Adıgüzel, and worker Vahap Ermen are killed during political incidents. Student Mustafa Karaosmanoglu who was stabbed earlier dies at the hospital. In Aydın, Mehmet Şahin is shot dead by a "Gray Volf". In Istanbul, student Yüksel Kaşıkçı who was shot earlier dies at a hospital.
- SEP 29: In Adama, student Mustafa Bacak who was wounded earlier dies at a hospital.

 In Istanbul, Metin Oranlı is stabbed to doath by an unidentified.

 In Siirt, a 15-year old youth, Izzettin Denir is killed in a tribal fighting.

 In Kara, student Vedat Yılmaz is shet dead during an armed conflict between two leftist groups.
- SEP 30: In Istanbul, student Alaattin Taş is killed by Gray Wolves.
 In Ankara, student Orhan Çakır who was shot carlier dies in hospital.
 In Ugak, worker isa Dingtopal is killed when his house is bombed by unidentified persons.
- OCT 1: In Adama, provincial president of Progressive Youth Association (IGD)
 Hüseyin Günel is shot doad by unidentified persons.
 In Istanbul, worker Movlut Çelik is killed during an explosion of bonb at a ferry-boat port.
- OCT 2: In Istanbul, student Gürbüz Yavuz is fatally shot while waiting bus before a hospital.
- In Ugak, worker Alaattin Gündüz is shot dead by unidentified persons.

 OCT 3: In Istanbul, provincial president of the NHP, Recep Hagatlı and his son, Mustafa Hagatlı, are shot dead by unidentified persons.

 In Istanbul, an armed group raid on a post-office and shoot dead officer Hüsnü Tepe.

 Again in Istanbul, worker Tamer Gürsel and worker Mammer Karan are shot to death by unidentified persons.

 In Nigde, Haydar Şahin is found killed.

In Bursa, student Mustafa Özkan is stabbed to death. The victim was the member of Labour Party of Turkey (TEP).
In Denizli, student Ahmet Sulubulut is shot dead.

- OCT 4: In Istanbul, student İzzettin Çörekçi is shot dead by an armed group spraying the window of his house.

 In Istanbul, three armed "Gray Wolves" shot dead two progressive students, Suat Koçer and Haluk Tandogan.

 In Ankara, student Adnan Çetin is fatally shot inside a commuter's train.
- OCT 6: In Istanbul, Halil Baybars and Orhan Tunceli are found killed in different quarters.
- In Adana, driver Battal Bezirgan is shot dead by three armed persons.

 OCT 7: In Istanbul, two workers, Ilhan Akyıldız and Kemal Güçlü are shot dead by their political adversaries. Again in Istanbul, an unidentified person is found killed.

 In Adana, student Zekeriya Kartal who was wounded earlier dies at a hospital.
- In Elazig, civil servant Akin Atalar is shot dead.

 OCT 8: The massacre of seven members of the TIP. (See: Top of the article).

 In Ankara, two students, Yusuf Yeleko and Süleyman Tunay are shot dead by armed "Gray Wolves".

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OCT 9: In "alatya, student İhsan Engür who was wounded carlier by "Gray Volves" dies at a hospital.
In Hazilli, student Ahmet Öztürk is shot dead by "Gray Wolves".

In Diarbakir, Nedim Sak, president of a cultural center, who is shot earlier dies at a hospital.

In Anysori, worker Orhan Chylak is found killed.

In Istanbul, Mote Özder, son of the MMP's district chairman, is shot dead by another member of the same party.

OCT 10: In Ankara, Tahir Özyazgan is shot dead by unidentified persons for refusing to buy a political publication.

OCT 11: In "alatya, student Cezmi Kartay who was wounded carlier dies at a hospital.

OCT 12: In Adama, wife of worker Sait Tur lost her life when an explosive planted in their house went off.
In Amasya, student Arslan Yeşilyurt is stabbed to death during a political skirmish.
In Istanbul, migrant worker Turan Güngör who has just come from Germany is shot dead by an unidentified person.

OCT 13: In Ankara, Perit Igneci, son of a gas station owner, is shot dead by an armed group.

OCT 15: In Ankara and Istanbul, two unidentified persons are found killed with bullet wounds on their bodies. (C-II-DN-DG-16/10)

A NEW ATTEMPT TO GET ANNULLED FASCIST ARTICLES OF THE TURKISH PENAL CODE

ISTANBUL (ITA) - In the course of the trial of an editor before a criminal court of Istanbul, on October 17, 1978, a new attempt was made with the purpose of getting annulled articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code which menace freedoms of expression and organization of the working class of Turkey.

Mr. Ahmet Tagtan, editor of Urun Publishing House was accused of having violated article 142 by publishing a pamphlet entitled "The Programme of the Communist Party of Turkey".

At the trial attended by the observers of some international organizations, the lawyers of the defendant said that articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code are in contradiction with the spirit of the Constitution of the Ropublic and asked the tribunal to transfer the file to the Court of Constitution with the demand of annulling these articles.

The public prosecutor too declared that these articles might be reviewed since the social and political conditions have changed to a great extent in Turkey. After getting the definitive view of the public prosecutor on the subject, the tribunal will take a decision on December 28, 1978 whether or not to transfer the file to the Court of Constitution.

Articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code had been berrowed from the Penal Code of Musselini in 1936 and are still in force in Turkey although their originals lost their validity in Italy after the fall of the fascist regime.

Article 270 of Mussolini's Code reads: "... Whoseever attempts to create associations, to establish, organize or direct them with the aim of imposing by force the dictatorship of one social class ever others or of abolishing a class is liable to a penalty of 5 to 12 years' imprisonment."

Article 141 of the TPC reads: "Whoseever shall attempt to form, or form, or organize or direct the activities of, or provide guidance for, under whatsoever name, any society with the aim of establishing the hegemony or domination of a social class over other social classes, or eliminating a social class, or overthrowing any of the fundamental economic and social orders established within the country shall be punished by heavy imprisonment of not less than eight and not more than fifteen years."

Article 272 of Musselini's Penal Code reads: "...whosesver makes propaganda with the aim of introducing by force the dictatorship of one social class over another is liable to a penalty of 1 to 5 years imprisonment."

Article 142 of the TPC reads: "Whoseever shall be found guilty of carrying out propaganda with the view of establishing the domination of a social class over other classes, or eliminating a social class, or overthrowing any of the fundamental economic or social orders established in the country, or the complete political and legal system of the State, shall be punished by heavy imprisonment from five to ten years.

"In case the above-mentioned acts are perpetrated by means of publi-

cation the penalty involved shall be increased by a half."

Since 42 years these articles have been used by the authorities to intimidate or to annihilate any social opposition in Turkey. Hundreds of writers, editors, translators, actors, painters have been tried and condemned on the accusation of violating article 142 in their publications or performances.

In 1963, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), as the political representative of the working class, appealed to the Court of Constitution with the demand of annulling these two articles and, parallel to this logal proceeding, launched a wass campaign with the same purpose. But in 1965, the Court of Constitution rejected the demand with one vote majority and the fascist articles stayed in force.

In 1971, the Workers' Party of Turkey was closed down by the same court on the charge of violating article 141, and President Mrs. Behice Boran and other leaders of the party were condemned by a military court to imprisonments up to 15 years each with the same accusation.

In the course of the military regime between 1971-73, along with the TIP leaders, hundreds of socialist intellectuals and activists were condemned

to heavy imprisonments according to the same articles.

After the general amnesty in 1975, although all the condemned were released and the TIP was reestablished, the legal proceedings according to these articles have continued even after the formation of Ecevit's Government in 1978. Despite his promises during his electoral campaign, Prime Minister Ecevit has never shown any effort with the purpose of excluding these articles from the Penal Code.

In Pebruary 1978, the public prosecutor of Istanbul province initiated a legal proceeding against Mrs. Boran, President of the Workers' Party of Turkey, for having violated article 142 in her message on the occasion of

60th anniversary of October 1917 Revolution.

A similar proceeding was initiated against Hr. Hihri Belli, President of the Labour Party of Turkey (TEP) for the interview he had given to the

Greek newspaper Ta Nea.

On September 13, 1978, all members of the Administrative Board of the Workers' Socialist Party of Turkey (TSIP) were tried before a criminal court of Istanbul for having violated article 142 in the party's message on the occassion of the 60th anniversary of October 1917 Revolution.

Besides, again in the period of Ecevit's government, under similar accusations, public presecutors have brought many intellectuals before criminal

courts:

Two editors of the political review Kıvılcım are still in jail of Nigde for 30 years imprisonment each.

Mr. Saffet Tekin is still in prison of Izmit for 7,5 years imprison-

ment for having translated some works of Lenin.

Mr. Galip Sirlioglu, author of the book entitled "What did they say on Revolution?", Mr. Rasih Muri İleri, editor of the book entitled "Liberation", Mr. Mustafa Yıldırıntürk, editor of the periodical "Halkın Kurtuluşu", editors of periodical Çarkbaşak, organ of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) are being tried before criminal courts.

Recently, Ilker Domir, editor of weekly Kitle was tried on October 18, 1978 before a criminal court for violating article 142, and seven members of the Rovelutionary Youth Union (DGB) were condemned on October 17, 1978 in Istanbul to prison terms up to 8 years each for violating article 141.

in Istanbul to prison terms up to 8 years each for violating article 141.

The process of Mr. Tastan is one of the recent examples of application of these articles.

(C-JI-Y-DG-20/10)

ECEVIT'S GOVERNMENT SATISFIES NEITHER WORKING PEOPLE NOR CAPITALISTS

ANKARA (ITA) - Following a two-faced attitude, Eccvit's Government tries to get the support of both working class and capitalists, but fails to realize it.

While the opposition against Ecevit's social and economic policy is growing day by day among workers (See: BULLETIN, september 1978), capitalist

Circles too expressed their discontent with the same policy.

Recently, Mr. Vehbi Koç, Turkey's leading industrialist and founder of the Koç Holding company, criticized the Ecevit Covernment for its economic and social policies and called on political parties to unite to find solutions to Turkey's growing internal and external problems.

In an interview to the weekly Yankı, drawing a bleak picture of the economy, Koç said it is impossible to achieve an average growth of 8 percent

as foreseen in the fourth 5-year economic development plan.

Commenting on the achievements of the Ecevit Government, the industriclist praised the lifting of US arms embargo on Turkey and the flexible attitude of the Government on the Cyprus issue. But on the following issues Koc attacked on the government policy:

"The government, instead of directing all its resources and efforts in tackling vital issues has tried to indulge in the following matters:

"Monopolising iron ore imports and sales,

"Imposing full time work for doctors,

"Aining to nationalize mines,

"Concluding a social agreement with the Turkish Confederation of Trade Unions which has boosted workers pays between 40 to 80 percent,

"Allowing the Turkish Radio and Television to make biased broadcasts."
On foreign investments, he said compared to other countries such investments are low in Turkey. "Despite this fact great enmity has been created against foreign capital," Kee said, warning that the foreign investors that had come to Turkey are slowly leaving the country "let alone getting new ones".

Stating even cities and townships were divided into factions, the top capitalist said: "We are late. The country cannot afford to wait any longer; now our political parties have to seek ways of uniting against the basic problems."

It should be reminded that, in 1971, Mr. Koc made statements similar to those above, and a military intervention had followed those so-called "patriotic warnings". (Y-DN-DG-16/10)

GOVERNMENT SEEKS 8,1 BILLION DOLLARS AID FROM THE LEC

ERUSSELS (ITA) - As he waits some new economic and financial facilities from the USA as an award of reopening the US military bases in Turkey, Ecovit asks also the EEC for 8,1 billion dellars in economic aid over the next five years. At the talks with the EEC officials in October, the Turkish delegation stated that this amount constitutes "a substantial portion" of the 15,4 billion dellars Turkey needs in hard currency to realize the targets of its fourth 5-year plan. (See: BULLETIN, September 1978)

Turkey has proposed a package deal to the Community which includes, in addition to the financial aid, an "immunity" period of five years, meaning the suspension of some of Turkey's obligations to the EEC under the association agreement, and a "botter preference" for her agricultural exports and lifting of restrictions on its major industrial export item, textile products.

Turkish delegation demanded also free circulation for the Turkish immigrant workers who have been since five years in the EEC countries.